

Message Text

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APPROVED BY P - JJSISCO

S/S - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022699

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PLOS

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S JANUARY 27 MEETING WITH
GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON UNDER SECRET-
ARY SISCO JANUARY 27 TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN
OVER RECENT TURKISH COMMENTS ON THE AEGEAN AND THE SLOW
PACE OF THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO PRESENT AT THIS
MEETING WAS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS FOUND IT "DISQUIETING" THAT THERE
WAS NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, AND SUGGESTED THE TURKS,
EMBOLDENED BY THEIR SUCCESS IN GETTING THE BRITISH TO
RELEASE THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT REFUGEES IN THE SBA'S, WERE
NOW SETTING NEW UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS IN NICOSIA.

3. IN REPLY, UNDER SECRETARY SISCO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE
TOO WERE UNSATISFIED WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE IN-
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TERCOMMUNAL TALKS, AND WERE DOING ALL WE COULD TO URGE

THE PARTIES TO ADOPT FLEXIBLE POSITIONS THAT COULD HELP MAKE EARLY AGREEMENTS POSSIBLE. THE UNDER SECRETARY

ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT HEADLINES IN THE GREEK PRESS ALLEGING THAT WE HAD MASTERMINDED THE BRITISH DECISION TO RELEASE THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT REFUGEES IN THE SBA'S. HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN HAD CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ALLEGATION AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING OF THAT DAY.

4. THE UNDER SECRETARY THEN TURNED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, THAT THE AEGEAN DISPUTE BE REFERRED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. THE UNDER SECRETARY INFORMED AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS THAT WE HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER IN ANKARA, AS REQUESTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT PRESENTING THE AEGEAN ISSUE TO THE ICJ WAS A COURAGEOUS ACT BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND AN ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE THE RECENT TENSION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. ALEXANDRAKIS CITED A RECENT INTERVIEW OF DEFENSE MINISTER SANCAR AS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF A BELLIGERENT TURKISH STATEMENT. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER REPLIED THAT WE HAD MADE CLEAR OUR VIEWS TO THE TURKS THAT IT WAS NOT IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO HAVE PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY EITHER SIDE WHICH COULD LEAD TO A CONFLICT BETWEEN ALLIES. KISSINGER

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